on behalf of the Food Corporation of India/State Agencies have been allowed at a maximum of 1.5% of MSP.

(iv) Export of non-basmati rice below Minimum Export Price of $500 per metric tonne has been restricted.

(v) A notification requiring furnishing of return to the Secretary, Department of Food of the State Government in case of purchase (by any company or Firm of Individual) of rice beyond 10,000 tonnes and to the Central Government in case of purchase of rice beyond 25,000 tonnes has been issued. The above returns will indicate from where maximum quantities have been purchased. As a result, rice procurement for the Central Pool in KMS 2007-08 is 202.5 lakh tons (upto 3.3.2008) as compared to 193.5 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

Consultant for PCPIR

817. SHRI K.ANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government has appointed M/s Dalai Mott MacDonal as a consultant for short listing the location for setting up of Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR);

(b) if so, whether Dahej in Gujarat has been selected as one of the most important sites; and

(c) if so, the time period scheduled for setting up of PCPIR at Dahej?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) No Sir. M/s Dalai Mott McDonald are now engaged for facilitating technical scrutiny of the PCPIR project proposals as received from State Governments by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

(b) and (c): The State of Gujarat has submitted an application for hosting a PCPIR at Dahej spread over the blocks of Vagra and Bharuch in the district of Bharuch, South Gujarat. No time limit can be fixed for setting up of same.

Prices of Drugs

818. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by Government to check the prices of drugs through the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Drugs Prices Control Order;

(b) the number of cases where prices rose beyond the permissible limits;

(c) whether the price control has any impact on supply and production of drugs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the first Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price .

control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufactures are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever any abnormal prices increase is noticed, necessary action is taken. The manufacturer is impressed upon in such cases to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, if justified, action is initiated under para 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995. This is an ongoing process.

(b)In case of non-Scheduled formulations, prices of 487 cases reported price increase beyond the permissible limits. Out of the above, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 24 formulations under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 60 formulations. Thus in all, prices of 84 non-Scheduled packs have got reduced as the result of the intervention of NPPA.

(c)and (d) So far, no adverse impact on supply and production of drugs in the country due to price control has specifically come to the notice of NPPA.

Supreme Court direction on price control of drugs

t819. SHRI MOTI LALVORA:
SHRISATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that in one of its order, the Supreme Court had said to bring life-saving drugs within price control;

(b)if so, when this ruling was given by the Supreme Court; and

(c)the steps taken by Government for compliance of the Supreme Court orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court *vide* its interim order dated 10-3-2003 in SLP (C) No. 3668/2003 directed the Government, *inter alia,* to "consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003". As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (NLEM 2003).

Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 (subject to certain exemptions) in

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.